fora and in Parliament, consistently opposed unilateral armed action against Iraq and has called for the resolution of the outstanding issues through political and diplomatic means under the auspices of the United Nations. India welcomes the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1441 by the Security Council on 8th November, which provides for the return of weapons inspectors to Iraq. Subsequently, Iraq has also conveyed its acceptance of Resolution 1441. India believes that sanctions against Iraq should be lifted in tandem with full and effective compliance by Iraq of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Second road link between Agartala and Dhaka

285. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh are going to open a second road link connecting Agartala in Tripura with Dhaka in Bangladesh;

(b)"if so, by when this route would be operational; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The Governments of India and Bangladesh have signed an Agreement and a Protocol to operate a passenger bus service between Agartala and Dhaka on July 10, 2001 in Dhaka.

(b) and (c) Discussions are underway with Government of Bangladesh to make the bus service operational.

Fishermen detained in Sri Lankan waters

286. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 103 fishermen, with their machanised boats, were detained in Sri Lankan waters on the 25th September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) when they were released?